bright era of progress and reforms during His Highness' reign. May His Highness live long!

I respectfully request the hon'ble members to pass this congratulatory motion standing in their seats and also to observe a minute of silence, praying for a long and prosperous rule by His Highness.

The motion was carried all the members standing as a mark of respect to His Highness

All the members remained standing in silence for a minute praying for a long and prosperous rule by His Highness.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I request that the President may be pleased to forward this message to His Highness and also to publish these proceedings in the Gazette.

Mr. President: Yes.

The House adjourned for lunch at 1-15 p.m. and re-assembled at 2-45 p.m. with the Hon'ble President in the Chair.

BUDGET SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT

Honourable Members,

I must confess that I approach the task before me with a good deal of diffidence—diffidence born of my inexperience, coupled with my anxiety to discharge the duties appertaining to the high office entrusted to my care in the way in which they have been discharged all along by my predecessors-in-office. I take courage, however, from my belief that I can always count upon the cordial support and co-operation of the Honourable Members whom I have known so long and who, I know, are equally interested with me in conducting the business of this House in accordance with its high traditions.

It has been the usual practice with the Presidents of the Council to open the Budget Session with a short account of the stewardship of the State's finances, by the executive, for the year which is drawing to a close and of the financial position of the State at the end of that year. I feel that I would do well to keep up that practice, as there can be no doubt that an account like that would be a most effective background for a correct appreciation of the estimates for the coming year. A budget is "not merely a plan of public revenue and expenditure"; in its extended connotation, it means the entire condition of the State's finances.

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